

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The drawings are objected to because FIG. 1 should be designated by a legend such as "Prior Art."

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains phrases such as "means" that should be avoided.

The title of the invention is not descriptive and a new title is required.

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-17 are allowed and claims 4 and 12 contain allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended the abstract, the title in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Also, Applicants have amended claims 4 and 12 that stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and amended claims 1, 8, 9 and 16 only to improve their form. Moreover, a Submission of Replacement Drawing Sheets is filed concurrently herewith to replace the previously-filed drawing sheets.

Accordingly, claims 4 and 12 remain pending for further consideration with claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-17 being allowed.

Objection to the Drawings

FIG. 1 should be designated by a legend such as “Prior Art.” Applicants file concurrently herewith a Submission of Replacement Drawing Sheets to replace the previously-filed drawing sheets. In these Replacement Drawing Sheets, FIG. 1 has been amended to add the legend “Prior Art.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Objection to the Abstract

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended the abstract in accordance with the Examiner's comments set forth at Section 4 of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection to the abstract of the disclosure be withdrawn.

Title of the Invention

The Office Action alleges that the title of the invention is not descriptive. Accordingly, Applicants have presented a new title of “LIGHT BEAM SCANNING APPARATUS WITH AN IMAGE HEAD.” Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the new title is clearly indicative of the claimed invention.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 4 and 12 in accordance with the Examiner's

comments in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claims 4 and 12 are fully supported at least by the disclosure at pages 21-24 of the specification and do not narrow the intended scope of the claims. Therefore, Applicants do not intend to relinquish any subject matter by these amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4 and 12, as amended, fully comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

With no other rejections and objections pending, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: April 29, 2005

By: Mary Jane Boswell
Mary Jane Boswell
Reg. No. 33,652

CUSTOMER NO. 09629
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
Tel. 202.-739-3000
Fax 202-739-3001

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Attached is a Submission of Replacement Drawing Sheets including all of the FIGs. 1-12b in this application, to replace the previously-filed drawing sheets. In these Replacement Drawing Sheets, FIG. 1 has been amended to add the legend "Prior Art," as suggested by the Examiner at Page 2, Section 2 of the Office Action dated February 2, 2005.